

THE JACOBS REPORT

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GOVERNOR RELEASES 2006-07 BUDGET

Emphasis on Education

Governor Jennifer Granholm's 2006-07 budget bill provides significant funding increases for K-12 and higher education, calling for a \$200 per-pupil increase in the foundation allowance and a \$30 million increase in operational funding for state universities and community colleges.

"The Governor puts children first in her plan for a diversified and well-trained workforce," said Sen. Gilda Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods). "The future health of our economy is dependent on the competitive strengths and skills Michigan's children develop from early childhood forward."

Democrats were quick to praise the Governor for again submitting a balanced budget that included no general tax increases. The Governor has never proposed increases in any of the state's main general taxes — sales, property, income, etc. — despite inheriting major structural deficits when she took office.

The current deficit is \$408 million, which compares favorably to the \$1 billion level of previous fiscal years.

The governor's balancing strategy includes \$127 million in hard cuts, \$111 million in tax loophole closures, a \$23 million liquor license fee increase, \$42 million in more in anticipated federal Medicaid money and \$72 million in fund shifts. The state also has \$80 million left over from last year and plans to sell \$28 million in public land, \$18 of which is forestland.

The budget also froze revenue sharing to local governments and took advantage of a flush School Aid Fund (SAF) by moving \$27.7 million from the SAF to the General Fund.

STATE LOTTERY BREAKS CLUB GAME RECORD

Superbowl Week a Huge Boon

The benefits of hosting the Super Bowl XL continue to be roll in as the Michigan Lottery posted a phenomenal sales week that translated into nearly \$14 million for the state's school children.

The \$47 million sales for the week ending Feb. 6 resulted in a deposit of \$13.9 million to the state School Aid Fund, which is the beneficiary of all Lottery profits, said Lottery Commissioner Gary Peters.

Peters attributed the record sales in Club Keno and its Kicker option to the thousands of Michigan residents and visitors from other states who were celebrating the excitement of the national sporting event and patronizing the bars and restaurants that offer Lottery games.

Not only were sales up on Game Day itself, but for the entire week and for the same week the previous year. For the week ending Feb. 6, 2006, Club Keno and Kicker sales were \$9.1 million; for the same week in 2005, which also included the Super Bowl, sales were \$7 million.

“The Lottery is just one of the many success stories Michigan can celebrate on the heels of the Super Bowl,” Peters said. “That we were able to generate this amount of profit in just seven days is incredible and demonstrates the trickle-down effect of the Super Bowl on our economy. Fans, both from Michigan and elsewhere, were out enjoying the festivities offered in conjunction with the game, eating at our state’s fine restaurants and pubs, and adding to their fun by playing the Lottery.”

In addition to transferring \$13.9 million to the School Aid Fund, the Lottery paid out \$27.6 million in prizes and \$3.5 million in commissions during that same week.

All proceeds from the Lottery are contributed to the state School Aid Fund which supports kindergarten through 12th grade public education in Michigan. In fiscal year 2005, the contribution was \$667.6 million.

For additional information, please visit the Lottery’s Web site at www.michigan.gov/lottery.

OVERIAN CANCER

What You Need to Know

The diagnosis of ovarian cancer brings with it many questions and a need for clear, understandable answers. The National Cancer Institute (NCI) has a website that can help you and your loved ones. It describes the symptoms, detection, diagnosis, and treatment of this disease. Having this important information can make it easier for women and their families to handle the challenges they face.

Cancer researchers continue to study and learn more about ovarian cancer. The Cancer Information Service and the other sources of NCI information listed under “National Cancer Institute Information Resources” can provide the latest, most accurate information on ovarian cancer. Publications mentioned on their website and others are available from the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER. To obtain, view, or order NCI publications on the Internet, please visit <http://cancer.gov/publications>.

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

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State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

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